

WITCHDRAFT.
A. D. 1692.
Soe, Mistress Anne, faire neighbour mine,
How dost thou, and how doth thy heart shine?
Folk say that you are none too good,
To join the crew in Salem wood.
When one who wot of gives the sign:
Right well, mistress, the pathe you knowe.
In Meeting-time I watched you well,
While godly Master Parris prayed;
You folded hands lay on your book;
But Richard answered for you took.
That fair would tempt my heart to love,
Where, Mistress Anne, you place him made.
You look into my Richard's eyes,
And with gladness smileth on mine;
I found about his heart a fire,
And guess what flames he fed there;
He shall not lightly be your prize—
Your Master mine shall take his own.

"Tis not in nature he should be
(Who loved me so when Spring was green)
A child, to hang upon your gown!
He loved me well in Salem town,
And this was his own will;
His heart and mine crept back between.

Last Sabbath night, the gossip says,
Your Goodman mine from his side,
He had no strength to move, and lay
As if in slumber still;
Beside him at the window lay,
Till, now, what mean while did betide.

Dame Anne, mye hate you with your feet
As drives the fog overhead—
Or over yonder hill, where you were wont
To sit and gaze on the sea;
There is a tree ripe fruit shall bear
When, neighbour mine, your wicked heart
The stone of Gallows Hill shall tread.

A. D. 1884.
Our great-grandfather has schooled
Your families, late, were you born
In days when Cotton Master ruled
And damask nettles were worn;
Your pretty ways, your mocking air,
That passed, and that you were—
As faint with danger, then and there,
To you, as now to us your smiles.

Why not? We're wiser to begin,
The tokens are so clear to see,
How the dimple on your chin
How the freckle on your cheek,
Grace shined his simple and warm
Who enters your flirtation here,
Or trusts in whispered counter-charm,
Along with such a personage.

Your fan is vain, is in disguise;
It conjures, and we straight are drawn
Within a witch's Paradise
Of music, geranium, rose, lawn.
So through the season, where you go,
All else that falls from your eyes—
One needs no second sight to know
That sorcery is rampant yet.

Now, since the lark no more awail
Fair maids that practice arts,
Take heed, while I pronounce the fate
Of her who thus endures our hearts:
In time you shall a widow meet,
With spells more potent than your own,
And you shall know your master's weal,
And for these witchcrafts.

For you at his best shall wear
A veil, and seek with him the church,
And at the altar kneel for him;
The craft that left you in the lurch;
But thereafter, musing long,
With smile and with ascendency-twitch,
You shall too late come the wrong—
A captive and repentant witch.

—J. C. S. in *Harper's Magazine*.

PAUL AND VIRGINIA IN 1934.

It is a December evening in the year 1934. Away from the busy haunts of men the thermometer registers several degrees below zero; but in Boston the air is warm and balmy as May. It is also light as day everywhere, though the sun has long since set, and there is no moon. Windows are open in every house, and children lightly clad are playing about the streets. Science has made rapid advances in the past hundred years. In 1884 men had only begun to dream of what electricity might do for the world. Then, though there were rudimentary affairs called telephones, there was no direct communication with the Old World except a crude device by which they sent what were called telegrams. They had electric lights, too, but very imperfect contrivances, with very feeble illuminating power. Not until fifty years later was the first successful attempt made at changing the temperature of whole cities from cold to warm in winter and from hot to cool in summer. Now, not only has the time come when there is no more night, but in all thickly populated centers, no more extreme cold or heat. In a few years more we may expect to see the climate raised or lowered in every country under the sun, and regulated by electricity—which is as yet in its infancy, or rather the method of applying it. For this wonderful electro-motive force which has so increased the pleasure and comfort of existence, at the same time reducing the cost of living, is generally acknowledged to be the great spiritual generator which is fast hurrying on the millennium. And we no longer hear tales of alpine poverty among the poorer classes, since work is easier, wages brighter and the world a hundred times better and warmer than it used to be.

But we are dealing with generalities, whereas we started to look into personalities—one of them a most charming personality, too.

Miss Virginia Vaughn lives in her own house on Common Avenue. Time was when to be owner of a handsome residence on this street was to be a king—or a queen, either, as the case may be—in society. But, alas, how fortunes vary. For while the broad avenue is still highly respectable, none of the elite, except an isolated case like Miss Vaughn, may be found there; and the newer portions of the city towards the south and west are peopled by the aristocracy of Boston. In our hero's case, however, the house on Common Avenue, being left to her by her grandfather on condition that it should not be sold, and having been in the Vaughn estate for several generations, Miss Vaughn is received into society on precisely the same footing as if she had been born on Blaine boulevard, Butler square, St. John circle or Cleveland terrace.

Wealth, beauty and honorable ancestry combined can surmount any barrier to society, and all these Virginia Vaughn possesses. One would not think, looking at her pure Grecian profile, the masses of golden hair that crown her shapely head, the well-modeled figure, or the delicate rose-like complexion, that Miss Vaughn was born with a snub nose, black hair, muddy skin, and a mouth which was by no means small. Such was, however, the case. Moreover, the fact remains that all this has been changed, and Miss Vaughn is an acknowledged queen among the blonde beauties. Just how this has been brought about, it is no part of our business to tell. It is an open secret, though, that our most beautiful women today are "made, not born." Chemistry and electricity together can change the human form divine as easily as a hothouse can produce unusual vegetation.

Virginia Vaughn represents a yawn, rises and going to her window looks out on the scene below. A silvery bell sounds from the opposite wall, causing her to turn with a graceful motion and move across the room.

"Virginia, dear," floats in on the silence of the room, "I want to introduce you to my nephew at Sioux City. Can you arrange to see him in the course of five minutes or so?"

"Certainly, Mrs. Anthony," says Miss Vaughn. "In just five minutes you may call me."

She steps to the door, opening out of the room, and produces a small arrangement of mirrors, which she attaches by a fine wire to the telephone, and waits for the summons.

Soon the bell sounds again.

"Are you ready, Virginia?" says Mrs. Anthony, of Chicago.

"Yes, but first let me take a look at you," answers the girl. "I haven't seen you for a week."

"But Paul is waiting," says Mrs. Anthony. "Please connect for Sioux Falls at once."

feels a mighty tugging at his heart-strings. It used to be said that love laughs at locksmiths. Now we say that it makes all locksmiths, and a few hundred or thousand miles, more or less, of electric wire cannot prove a hindrance to love at first sight.

Mrs. Anthony introduces the young couple and discreetly retires into the back-ground.

"My aunt has often spoken of you, Miss Vaughn," says Paul, "and I have long looked forward to this meeting."

"I only returned yesterday from a protracted visit in Kansas," returns Virginia. "I took a little trip to the North pole last week. It is perfectly lovely up there now that they have the electric heater in full operation."

"I should think so," replies Paul. "I went up ten years ago, when the electric railway was put in there. Whew! wasn't it cold, though?"

"I shiver to think of it," says Miss Vaughn's answer. "What a long time they were in getting that railroad into successful operation. It was despaired of several times, wasn't it?"

"Yes," comes back from Sioux Falls. "There were certain difficulties to be overcome at the pole, you know."

"Oh, yes; magnetism, and all that," returns Virginia. "O, do you know we are having a novelty here in Boston, music—"

"The old-fashioned opera?" "Pipes?" is being replied, and it's the queerest thing, funny, but so different from the music in this age."

"People in those days," returns Paul, heartily, "were not much better than barbarians. What do you suppose they could understand of the advanced music of this age?"

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LETTER FROM CHINA.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING THE CAPITAL CITY.

Blind Leaders of Blind—Public Beggars—Chinese Printers—Honom Temple—Flower-boats—Etc.

[Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]

CANTON, November 24, 1884.

A brief description of this city and vicinity, although it is a general proposition to all, is more of the people from the Flower Kingdom than they know what to do with. This city occupies a tract of land two miles across, and essentially square, surrounded by a brick wall twenty feet in thickness, and from twenty-five to forty feet in height. There are the southern and western suburbs, which lie outside of the wall, and are very populous. The city itself is divided into two portions, known respectively as the Old and the New, which are separated by a wall with four gates. The new city is simply a slice of land parallel to the river, which was added to the municipality after the first wall had been built. Twelve gates lead into the combined cities. Every night all these gates are shut at 10 o'clock in the evening, and the present unsettled state of things, are carefully guarded. The outer gates are, while at certain intervals in the street, and wooden p'oles are placed which are closed at night to prevent the accumulation of deliberative assemblies. Some of these gates are provided with exceedingly precious and sumptuous ornaments. As for instance, the Gate of Benevolence, which is the "Gate of Benevolence and Love," etc. At present it is reasonably safe to go about in the walled city, and I have made several trips the entire length of the place in company with a missionary, and have not suffered molestation. It is always easy to tell when you are near one of the city gates, because of the crowd of people, and the streets, sometimes rendering progress next to impossible. Canton is the

MOST ELABORATE CITY

In the empire—the representative city of all China. Its streets are excessively narrow, but they are clean, and free from dirt. Clean from a Chinese standpoint, and evidence of wealth abound on many of the most important thoroughfares. Perhaps the average width of a street is from six feet to six feet, but I measured one which was only two feet six inches from wall to wall. It was hardly possible for the line of pedestrians going one way to pass the line of those going the other way, and by means of a "siding" process. When coolies met wearing the flat broad-brimmed hats which are so common among the working classes, they would be compelled to remove their headgear altogether. Of course, no wheeled vehicle of any sort can get inside of the city proper; much less could it move if it once landed in the street, for some kind of squeezing process. All traveling is done on foot or in chairs, and when a chair is encountered, everybody going in the opposite direction is obliged to step into the rear of the chair (the front is all open, without windows, doors or any partition) and wait until it has passed. In order to convey accurately

THE MULTITUDINOUS LIFE

That animates these narrow streets, the reader has only to reflect that considerably over a million people are crowded up in an inclosure two miles square! Blockades are not very common in the streets, but yet I do not understand how they are prevented, for the streets always swarm with humanity. A funeral or a wedding procession takes up a wide highway, and a passing fire department crowd is everywhere into the store-fronts. People must mind their own business on the street, in order to avoid collisions, and the narrowness of the roadway both tends to this, and by and to prevent the accumulation of a mob.

Occasionally we heard disrespectful language behind our backs, but we paid no attention to it. Children, and occasionally men, would cry out "Fankwe!" as we passed by, and once we heard that word which is still in vogue in the streets, pronounced in a low, sullen, hissing tone, that signifies in the Cantonese dialect, "off with his head!" One of the strangest sights witnessed on the streets was that of

BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

The blind are wont to form coalitions for their mutual benefit, and may be seen moving cautiously along in a procession. Many counted on a few, and in a procession. Each person takes hold of the garment of the person in front of him with the left hand, and with the right keeps a lambent pole over his head, and the crowd of people, turning corners and ascending and descending steps with wonderful ease. The principal responsibility devolves upon the leader.

THE MANUSCRIPT EXHIBIT.

Beggars are not near as common here as in Shanghai, where they infested the streets as rats do a wharf. In China, paradoxical as the statement may sound, a person who is poor is not a beggar, that is, too poor to pay the initiation fee which admits him to the beggars' union. In this case he simply lies around anywhere, making himself as offensive as possible, and even inflicting torture upon himself, in order to wring pity from the crowd. This afternoon I passed by such a one. He was an old man, bald to the waist, and as I walked by he knocked his head against the pavement, thereby producing an audible report which made me shudder. As he raised his head from the ground I noticed that long practice of this sort had produced a large lump upon his scalp.

CHINESE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

I was much interested by a visit made to an establishment for foreign work conducted entirely by Chinese. No one of whom could speak the words of the English language. How they set the types without knowing the names of the letters, or the meaning of the copy, which was being set up, was a mystery to me; but they did it, and did it with marvelous accuracy. The compositors employed on the Hongkong English dailies are Chinese, with the exception of a few Portuguese. Most of the native printing is done with movable types. When a book is to be printed in Chinese, the manuscript is given to a professional writer, who is usually a Chinese, and the entire work under the supervision of the author, doing such delicate work that you cannot believe it is printed by hand. Then this paper is pasted on a block of wood, and an artisan, employed for that purpose, cuts out the space between the lines of the characters, thus producing wooden stereotype plates. Some of the most exquisite establishments are getting movable types now. A few days we visited

THE HONAN TEMPLE.

One of the largest and finest in all South China. When this is said, everything has been said. China does not produce anything very good in the way of architecture, and hardly anything that is distinctive. We passed down a dirty avenue of banyans, followed by the ragged of the whole island, whom even the dignity of the whole American Consulate was not sufficient to awe into silence. Sometimes the appeals of this howling mob for "charity" were nothing short of deafening. We looked into a number of halls, all much alike, inspected gilded images, huge candlesticks, and sandal-wood incense-burners and nausens, and then went quite a distance in the rear to see the museum where the ashes of deceased priests are deposited. This was a very substantial monument, composed of granite slabs eleven feet long by two feet wide. Near by was the crematory—the first I had seen in China—a small stone oven six or eight feet long, equipped for the cremation of but a single body at a time. Then we were escorted back to

THE SACRED STONE

(Can any one think of a more incongruous combination?) These were nothing more nor less than a drove of obese hogs, such as any be seen every fall at a county fair in

the United States. They are kept at the expense of the temple, to recognize the command of Buddha that every man shall do all in his power to prevent the destruction of a single living creature.

By the way, Buddhism in China is not at all the peaceful thing which some ignorantly fancy it. If Edwin Arnold could have come here after having written his "Light of Asia" I think he would have become sick to his stomach; and if he could have inspected the workings of Chinese Buddhism prior to the publication of that pleasant little idyl, I doubt if the world would have been the poorer for the poem.

THE FLOWER BOATS.

The flower boats on the rivers in China are quite an institution. They are not named because they carry flowers, but because the Chinese regard the word flower as an indefinite term, and apply it to everything. So the denomination of this empire as the Flower Kingdom does not signify that the flora of China is specially extensive or choice. But in the case of the flower boats the term is applied to the people, and the fact that the front over the main entrance is showily carved, and flowers usually figure in this scroll-work. As a rule the flower boats are small floating lodgings. They are arranged in the form of streets on the water, long lines of them facing each other. Some of them are fixed up in real style with many rooms, and are very comfortable and shabby. We passed close in front of the

HANDSOME MARRIAGE BOAT

In Canton. To the river population here this boat would correspond to the church in which we went sometimes to hold our marriage services. The people never go ashore, but some of them have accumulated considerable wealth, and go in for a fancy wedding. A very swell ceremony was being in progress as we approached this caudally-decorated boat. The clash of gongs, cymbals and unmelodious drums was simply deafening. All this noise, which characterizes Chinese weddings, funerals, and festivals of every sort, is based upon the theory that when the good and evil spirits are contending for the possession of a soul, the evil spirit may be driven away by loud noises. We inquired, and found that in this case the hideous noise had been going on almost incessantly for six days, in order to insure a prosperous marriage. The cost of the boat, exercises, complete, for the week, was \$240—a princely sum to the average Chinaman. The boat is a small, narrow, and is decorated with hanging-baskets of artificial flowers.

MOSQUITOES, FLEAS AND JOSTERS.

In closing this letter I feel called upon to pay some little tribute to the Canton mosquito, a rat, small, but, oh, so energetic, and persistent! We were under nettings at night, but some times even these prove no protection. I shall engrave his name upon the same tablet of my memory as that of the Japanese flea commemorated.

IN TIME TO COME.

The flowers are dead that made a summer splendor. By wayside nooks and on the sunny hill. And these are the hearts of our grow tender. As sometimes all hearts will.

WE LOVED THE BLOSSOMS, FOR THEY HELPED TO

The lives so dark with weary toil and care. As hopes and dreams toward help to lighten. The heart and dreams are, that of one brief hour. Make the glad heart a garden bright and green. Above love's lattice bower.

One little hour of almost perfect pleasure. A foretaste of the happiness to come. Then sunny days we have, and sunny days we have. And stand in sorrow, dumb.

Oh, heart, heart! The flower may lose its glory. Beneath the touch of frost, but does not die. In spring it will repeat the old, sweet story. Of God's love and glory.

In heaven, if never here, the hopes we cherish—The flowers of human lives we count as lost—Will live again. Such beauty cannot perish; And heaven has no frost.

—[E. E. Rexford.]

A DAY WITH THE SPONGERS.

Having a curiosity to learn something of the mode of life of the spongers, says a correspondent of *Forest and Stream*, I started one bright morning for the mouth of the Anclote. The air was soft and balmy, the surroundings were all that an enthusiastic lover of Florida could wish, the canoe was gayly decorated, and the crew, as the air vocal with the songs of birds, the water fretted with the leaping fish. Nearing the mouth of the river I caught sight of the spongers' fleet, some forty odd boats in all, and all halting from Key West. The boats were of the most primitive type, a schooner rigged and varying in size from five to twenty tons. Some were painted black, some green, but the prevailing color was white with a narrow red stripe. Singing out the loudest one of the fleet, the General Hancock, I laid a course to bring me alongside. It was evident the crew had never seen a canoe and double-blade before, but I found their hospitality even greater than their curiosity. I was soon alongside, and accepting the hearty invitation of the Captain Sawyer I stepped on board, the canoe was hailed and critically examined. Captain Sawyer propounding the question, "Do you take that 'thing' to bed with you?" "No," I replied, "but I make my bed in that 'thing'."

I found that General Hancock a very tidy craft, and well adapted to the work she was engaged in. The crew, all told, consisted of nine men, and she was fitted out for three months' cruise. Sponging has been a great business of late years, and quite nearly so many chances for a good strike. The vessels fit out on shares, half to the ship, half to the men. Off the Anclote Keys is considered the best sponging ground on the coast, although it is good anywhere where there is the buoyance jelly. The work is done in calm weather, when the water is comparatively smooth. The small boats (each vessel has from two to four) supplied with poles, grapnels and lines, are sent out in the morning, and sometimes three men drift along with wind and tide, all the time keeping a bright lookout on the bottom. The water glass is simply a bucket with a piece of common window glass set in the bottom. By setting this at a distance of two or three feet just below the surface, one can see quite plainly to a depth of thirty or forty feet, the vibrations from ripples, swell, etc., being entirely overcome, and nothing to obstruct the vision save the density or color of the water. When sponge is discovered the grapnel is brought in, the sponge torn from its hold and deposited in the boat.

CUTTINGS AND SCIONS.

Cuttings of the Huaco grape, from Chile, producing the splendid raisins exported from that country. This grape has almost ripened its fruit this season at Berkeley, and the latter closely resembles the Muscat in most respects. Three cuttings to each lot.

ANGOLA PLANT (Panicum Spicatum, Sorghum Helopense, or, as it is unfortunately been called in California, "evergreen millet").

Roots in one-pound packages.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX (Liriodendron macleayana),

a forage plant adapted to silviculture, and all soils (see Rep. for 1882, p. 117).

belonging to the lumbago-quartern group of plants; is much liked by cows. Ten plants to each lot.

OF THE SILVIAN SUMAC (Rhus Coriaria),

the expected large supply has not been realized, on account of the failure of the imported seed to germinate. It is now being multiplied by cuttings and suckers from large plants. A small number can be distributed, one plant and one good root to each lot.

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PLANTS AND SCIONS.

DISTRIBUTION SOON TO BE MADE BY THE STATE

From the Agricultural Experiment Station at Berkeley—Information Concerning Different Varieties.

The following has just been received from Professor E. W. Hilgard, University of California, and will be of interest to the agricultural and horticultural public:

The following kinds of plants and scions, of proven or probable economic value in this State, will be available for distribution from the University during the present season. The following are the varieties:

For sending out until on or about February 1st; while scions may, if desired, be sent as pruning progress. Applications should be made at once, and will be filled in the order in which they have been received, omitting, however, such as are very scarce.

Plants will not, as a rule, be ready for sending out until on or about February 1st; while scions may, if desired, be sent as pruning progress. Applications should be made at once, and will be filled in the order in which they have been received, omitting, however, such as are very scarce.

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AFFAIRS ABROAD.
MORE TOWNS DESTROYED BY
EARTHQUAKES IN SPAIN.
French War Vessels Ordered to
China—Gladstone Slightly
Indisposed.
[LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-EXCERPTS.]

Another Dynamite Explosion.
LONDON, January 24.—A dynamite explosion occurred on the underground railway between Gower street and King's Cross station at 9.30 this evening. The windows of a passing train were shattered and a gas-light extinguished. The passengers were greatly terrified, but no one was hurt. The train resumed its journey after a delay of twenty-five minutes.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]
LONDON, January 24.—A. M.—The shock of the explosion was felt by residents on the Eastern road, near the St. Pancras church and Judd street. The railway runs the whole length of Euston road underneath the roadway. The explosion took place at the vent shaft at the head of Ossington street, from which at the time of the explosion a quantity of smoke issued. A number of parties were sent to the spot with lamps and appliances for clearing the line. Up to the present time nothing has been found. The residents of the locality are greatly alarmed. The shock overthrew several waylaid cars on the Euston road, and it was with great difficulty that horses were restrained from running away. The explosion in the tunnel was followed by a series of smaller shocks. The ticket collector states that tickets were thrown from his box. The engineer working the train was thrown from his seat three or four feet, landing on his feet. The lights in other trains in the tunnel were extinguished. The passengers were greatly alarmed, and many ladies fainted. The Gower street platform was literally strewn with persons prostrated by the shock.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]
LONDON, January 24.—A. M.—Superintendent Williams of the Royal Yard, and the Superintendent and Inspectors of the various districts, arrived at the Gower street station half an hour after the explosion, and immediately proceeded to examine the scene. They discovered that the signal box, eastward of St. Pancras church, had been partially wrecked. The signal wires were separated, and the clock stopped at various minutes past 9. A close inspection showed that the explosive material could not have been gunpowder, as the surrounding brickwork was not blackened. It was, however, a dynamite. The locality of the explosion is on the north side line, midway between St. Pancras church and King's Cross. The only clues are a few fragments of paper found about the track.

Gladstone Ordered to Rest.
LONDON, January 24.—A. M.—Dr. Andrew Clark, who is attending upon Mr. Gladstone, has ordered him to take a complete rest from work of any description.

The Earthquake-Stricken Region.
MADRID, January 24.—Earthquake shocks were again felt at Grenada, Malaga, Xerxa and Algeiras last night. The panic and confusion of the people is unabated. A number of towns and villages have been completely destroyed and the inhabitants have deserted them. Many persons sleep in the open air. A royal decree has been issued ordering that a national subscription for the relief of sufferers be made. The public authorities have agreed to contribute one per cent. By this means \$240,000 will be raised. The Spanish Embassadors, Ministers and Consuls in all countries will also open subscriptions.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]
MADRID, January 24.—Shocks of earthquake were again experienced at Alhama last night. The town is in ruins. A panic prevails among the population. The Spanish twenty-eight miles northwest of Malaga, where shocks have already been felt.

How Prince Coloma Wounded Miss Mackay.
LONDON, January 24.—The Paris letter gives the following details of the courtship between Miss Mackay and Count Coloma: Last winter in Rome the Count escorted Miss Mackay to the Colonna palazzo, on Piazza del Sant'Apollinare, to show her his family portrait gallery. In passing along the corridor the Prince walked and then halted, making explanatory remarks in regard to the history of his ancestors, dwelling with pride upon the name of Cardinal Coloma whom Petrarch venerated, of the great Admiral who performed prodigious feats of valor on the coast of Lepanto, and longest of all upon the sad story of the sweet, dark-eyed Victoria Coloma, who loved and built the lofty Rhine. Upon reaching the end of the gallery Miss Mackay, with an air of smile to her companion, pointing to the vacant space: "Principle, when time rolls on, and your portrait is hung there, will not speak of your distinguished ancestor from the other Colomas?" "If they merely say 'This is Prince Coloma, who was happy in being Miss Mackay's adoring slave,' I will be more than content," answered the Prince.

Bismarck's Opinion of the Opposition.
BERLIN, January 24.—Bismarck, in acknowledging the contribution of 2,500 marks for his use, by the citizenry of Berlin, wrote a letter stating that the sympathy extended him shows that the German nation sees the danger of minorities, which are only a hindrance to the progress of the nation, and that the Government and which collapse when called upon to support the Government. He will make proposals respecting the disposal of the land, as he considers it unpracticable to apply it to provide himself with an assistant in the Foreign Office, for whose salary the Reichstag refused to grant a vote.

Increased Duties Asked For.
BERLIN, January 24.—Bismarck has handed the Bundesrat six petitions from agricultural associations for the protection of farm produce, and demanding that the duties on corn, cattle and wool be increased four fold, and that the gold monetary standard be established. The decision of the Bundesrat is awaited with interest.

Interesting Statement—Death of Dr. Blakely.
LONDON, January 24.—The holiday season is naturally allied to literature, and some interesting statistics appear to-day. The number of books published in 1884 was 4,373; the total, 724,444; the juvenile, 407,408. Books on art and science show a great increase over 1883.

The year opened as it closed, with serious railway disasters in London, accompanied with loss of life. The railway management here is losing its old prestige, and Fire Chief Shaw, who was so hard a critic of American railway management in saving life, seems to be even more at fault as to remedy and prompt service.

The death is announced of Rev. Dr. Blakely, Canon of Lincoln, and a member of the American Low Church Episcopalians as the controversial writer of Evangelical schools.

Steamer Destroyed by Fire.
HAVRE, January 24.—Two thousand bales of cotton have been landed here at the Euro dock from the steamer Rhodora, from New Orleans, destroyed by fire, which is still burning.

British Cabinet Council—Gladstone Ill.
LONDON, January 24.—A meeting of the Cabinet Council will be held to-day, to consider the foreign and colonial question. Gladstone is slightly indisposed.

French Men-of-War Ordered to China.
PARIS, January 24.—Four men-of-war have been ordered to proceed to Chinese waters, to reinforce Admiral Courbet's squadron.

Advices from Panama.
PANAMA, December 24th.—On Sunday last about sixty thatched huts were buried at Gorgona, a small village on the line of the canal work, which was destroyed by fire, which is still burning.

Some heavy fighting has taken place in the State of Santander. The rebels, commanded by General Fortunato Bernal, were defeated with severe loss. The Federal troops sided with the State Government, and thus secured a victory.

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